

In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Message from the Mayor

On March 5, I delivered the annual State of the District speech at historic Dunbar Senior High School. And even with all of the trials and difficulties that faced our nation's capital in 2001, I was proud to declare that the state of the District is stronger than ever – and that the best is yet to come.

We still have work to do, but we've vastly improved upon many of the chronic problems that have plagued our city for years. We've gone from a \$500 million deficit to balanced budgets five years in a row. We've provided timely, efficient government services to citizens. We've brought the homicide rate down to its lowest in 15 years.

But what I really wanted to talk about that night and now is the future—one future, with opportunities for all District citizens. My address outlined three major goals.

First, all children must have the education to go as far as their dreams and determination will take them.

To this end, I have pledged to put enough money in the budget to increase teacher salaries by up to 20 percent over the next three years. I'm dedicating an additional \$3 million to UDC so the university can raise salaries for staff and improve key academic programs. And, I have called for a task force to fix the ballooning costs of special education in our school system.

I have set a goal that within five years every young person who wants to go to college should be able to go. This year, I'm putting a down payment on that goal by tripling local funding for college financial aid in the FY '03 budget. This will add \$1.5 million to the program.

Second, every neighborhood must be a place people want to call home. We've already revitalized our downtown, created 5,000 jobs for District residents last year, provided comprehensive health insurance to more than 20,000 people, and are helping to build more than 11,000 homes and apartments for low and moderate income families.

But I believe our crowning achievement will be to restore the Anacostia waterfront to its rightful place as the jewel of the city. We've joined 18 federal agencies to commit over \$600 million to the Anacostia Initiative, to clean up its islands, restore over 40 acres of wetlands, and build a river walk. I look into the future and see the Anacostia bringing people from all over the city to live, work, dine and shop. The Anacostia will soon unite our city – not divide it.

Lastly, our citizens and our elected officials must have the power to determine our future.

Here, in the capital of democracy, lives one of the largest blocs of disenfranchised voters in the free world. It's time we had a vote in the House and the Senate. It's time that citizens here in the District get the same rights as all other voters in the 50 states that make up this nation. It is time for the District of Columbia to have autonomy over our budget so we can have *real* self-government, not student government. And Congress must fix our structural relationship with the federal government that causes a \$400 million annual burden to be placed on the backs of District voters each year.

I spoke on March 5 about the thousands of trees we are planting to honor the victims of September 11. All across this city, we are planting seeds that are growing into opportunities, opportunities for our children, opportunities for thriving neighborhoods, opportunities for democracy. Opportunities for our city to become the city of our dreams. Click here to view the full text <http://www.washingtondc.gov/mayor/speeches/index.asp>. The video is available at http://octt.dc.gov/services/on_demand_video/channel16/March2002/detail_289.shtm.



AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

[Advisory Neighborhood Commission](#)

Employee Spotlight

Nadine Parker, a Support Services Assistant at the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), is the most customer friendly person you could ever meet, according to Larry Carr, her supervisor.

Larry's viewpoint became official when Nadine Parker was voted by her peers to be the most customer-friendly employee at DCRA. "Nadine is admired by her co-workers because of her hard work and effort to please both internal and external customers," said DCRA Director David Clark.

"She's dependable and responsive, and no matter how many assignments she's trying to juggle she consistently gets all of them done," said Larry. According to Larry, Nadine speaks with about 25 people a day and performs a variety of tasks that include taking photos for identification cards, making copies for customers, issuing electronic keycards, distributing the mail, scheduling cars for the director and other staff and even driving them herself when necessary.

Through all of this, Larry said, she has a way of keeping her composure. "She has a wonderful personality, even during stressful moments," he added. "She works with a smile on her face and in her voice—all the time."



Left to right: Paulette Sewell-Gibson, DC Customer Service Operations; Nadine Parker, David A. Clark, DCRA Director

DC Goes Interactive

Since I entered office, my Administration has made a concerted effort to promote e-government—first revamping our Web site and then bringing online key services such as electronic tax filing.

Now, we've put the entire city online!

Our new, interactive DC Economic Development map shows developers, potential investors and residents planned and under-construction development projects; geographic areas with tax incentives for businesses and developers; and detailed information including the status, cost and scope of each project.

The map displays 99 projects—from Ward 1 to Ward 8—representing over \$5.5 billion in economic development for our city.

The map is a joint project of the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development, the DC Marketing Center, the Office of Planning and the DC-based map-media company. Visit www.dcbiz.dc.gov for more information and to view the map

Help Make Our City Beautiful

Keeping our city clean is everyone's responsibility. That's why for the third time, District residents will participate in the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest organized litter prevention, beautification and community improvement program, which takes place April 1 – May 31. Along with members of the City Council, I plan to kick off the event on March 30 at 9:30 am at the 2900 Block of Georgia Avenue, NW (between the 600 block of Columbia Road, NW and the 600 block of Hobart Place, NW).

As part of the city's 9-week cleanup campaign, the District will work in partnership with Keep Washington, DC Beautiful, Inc. to plan a public awareness campaign, neighborhood cleanups, a bike ride cleanup, a regional cleanup, a cleanup of the Anacostia River, and a poster contest for students K-12.

For more information, visit the Web site for the District's Clean City Initiative at www.cleancity.dc.gov or contact the Department of Public Work's Helping Hands Program, which is helping to plan community cleanup efforts, at (202) 645-7190. To find out what has been scheduled for your neighborhood, consult the Clean City Events Calendar or call the Office of the Clean City Coordinator at (202) 671-1403. This is the beginning of a lifelong commitment to keep Washington, DC beautiful!



LINK TO OTHER
WEBSITES

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention
and Tourism](#)

[DC Public Library](#)

Master Business License Makes Life Easier for Business Owners

If you own a business or run a non-profit association in the District, there has been a change in the way that you must conduct business in the city.

Any business or non-profit that generates more than \$2,000 a year in gross receipts must obtain a Master Business License (MBL). The MBL eliminates the use of multiple registration numbers and establishes one renewal date for all business licenses.

The MBL gives you the benefit of obtaining the license from the convenience of your personal computer – so you're online, rather than in line. It's a simple process that takes only a few minutes.

The new MBL is available at www.brc.dc.gov or, if you do not have access to a computer, you may call (202) 442-8933 for more information.

District Activities



Students from combined classes at Dunbar Senior High School listen to Mayor Williams as he discusses DC voting rights.



Mayor Williams takes a turn at the pump at the grand opening of the city's new full-service, high-tech fueling station.



Mayor Williams speaks to an audience of 1,200 at his State of District address at Dunbar.



Groundbreaking ceremony for Marine Barracks Annex and Band Support Facility at 7th and L Streets, SE.

Community News

- [Scheduled Street Sweeping Resumes on March 18](#)
- [Plans For South Capitol Gateway Study Announced](#)
- [Affordable Housing Legislation Signed](#)

[Click here](#) to view releases.



Upcoming Events

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|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 03/24 | DC Marathon 6:50 am Lincoln Memorial - Start 12:00 pm Freedom Plaza - Awards Ceremony |
| 03/25 | Penn Branch AARP Chapter Meeting Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church 3000 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE 11:30 am - 12:00 pm |
| 03/26 | Information Forum 10th Street Baptist Church 1000 R Street, NW 11:00 am - 12:00 pm |
| 04/09 | Ward One Citizens Meeting on Emergency Preparedness Marie Reed Community Learning Center 2200 Champlain Street, NW 7:00 pm |
| 04/26 | Hillcrest Civic Association Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter 3319 Alabama Road, SE 11:00 am - 12:00 pm |

[Click here](#) to view Mayor's daily schedule.

